

Application No.: 09/608890

Docket No.: CPI-004DVCP3CN

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 2, line 32 through page 3, line 5, and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention relates to a substantially pure MEKK protein capable of regulating a MEK kinase dependent pathway. In certain embodiments a MEK kinase comprises a catalytic domain and is capable of phosphorylating MKK proteins. In preferred ~~embodiments~~ embodiments the MEKK substrate is ~~selected~~ selected from the group of MAP kinase kinases consisting of ~~MEKK1~~ MKK1, MKK2, (also called MEK1 and MEK2 respectively) MKK3, or MKK4 (also called JNKK1 and JNKK2 or SEK respectively). The present invention includes a substantially pure MEKK protein capable of regulating signals initiated from a growth factor receptor on the surface of a cell by regulating the activity of MAPK protein. Exemplary MAP kinases include p42, p44, ERK1, ERK2, JNK1, JNK2, or p38 SAPK. In preferred embodiments a MEK kinase can activate at least one of the group c myc, cJun, cPLA2, Rsk 90, TCF, Elk-1, or ATF-2.

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